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The newspaper of Silicon Valley

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TENSIONS ESCALATE

Russia to expel 60 US diplomats

Country also to close US consulate in St. Petersburg in escalation of response to alleged poisoning of former Russian double agent in Britain

By Matthew Bodner
The Washington Post

MOSCOW » Russia will close the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg and kick out 60 American diplomats in response to Monday's coordinated expulsion of Russian diplomats from the United States and a number of other countries, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Thursday.

The move continues an ongoing escalation of tit for tat between Moscow and the West that began in early March with the alleged poisoning of a former Russian double agent on British soil with a Soviet-designed nerve agent. U.S. officials said Thursday that another round might be coming.

"We reserve the right to respond," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in Washington. "Russia should not

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Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and other officials maintain Moscow had nothing to do with the poisoning of a former Russian double agent.

YURI KADOBNOV AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MLB OPENING DAY

CHEERS ABOUND, BASEBALL'S BACK

With high hopes and fresh faces, Athletics and Giants swing into season with victories

DOUG DURAN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above: Athletics fan Stephen Chrabaszcz of Clayton celebrates after an A's home run during their opening day game against the Angels at the Oakland Coliseum on Thursday. The A's defeated the Angels 6-5 in 11 innings.

Right: Giants third baseman Evan Longoria, left, greets teammates prior to a game against the Dodgers on opening day at Dodger Stadium on Thursday in Los Angeles. The Giants defeated the Dodgers 1-0.

Inside: For more from opening day, see **SPORTS C1**

KEITH BIRMINGHAM — SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS GROUP

'NO ONE'S IMMUNE'

Are our local governments ready for a cyberattack?

Ransomware security threat can destroy data or paralyze networks

By John Woolfolk
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Two major U.S. cities were crippled this week by ransomware, but even in the heart of Silicon Valley, Bay Area government officials tasked with safeguarding a growing trove of sensitive data feel vulnerable to what they see as a constant and ever-evolving threat.

More than a fourth of U.S. local governments are subject to hourly cyberattacks, according to one recent national survey, and about one in seven experience yearly electronic security breaches that result in confirmed unauthorized access to sensitive information and systems. Nearly a third said the hackers were seeking ransom.

"Every city sees on a routine basis ransomware attacks, it's

CYBERATTACK » PAGE 6

IMMIGRATION

Report: Most H-1B visas not going to Silicon Valley

By Ethan Baron
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The controversial H-1B work visa used heavily by Silicon Valley tech firms to acquire talent is much more widely used by companies based in New York and Texas, according to new research.

From 2010 to 2016, almost a third of the visas, which are intended for workers in jobs requiring specialized knowledge and a bachelor's degree or higher, went to businesses in the New York City area, the Pew Research Center reported Thursday.

Dallas and Washington, D.C., ranked second and third in numbers of approved H-1B visas, Pew said, basing its findings on government data on 68 metro areas obtained via a public records request. New York City-area companies obtained 247,900 H-1B visas, Dallas region firms received 74,000, and metropolitan D.C. had 64,800.

Trailing with the 10th-highest number of H-1B visas approved was the metropolitan area of San Jose, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale with 22,200. The San Francisco

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